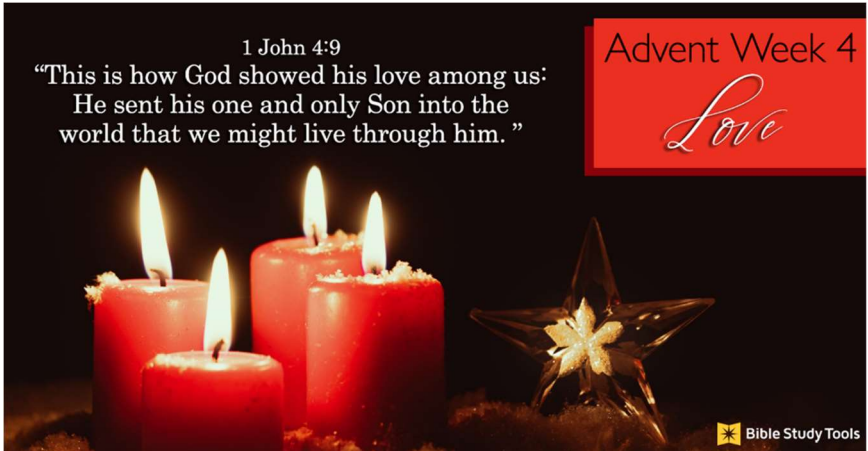


First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave
Fulton, IL 61252
815-589-3790



*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

Pastor Michael-Email: mhooke01@gmail.com

Church Email: FirstCRCFulton@live.com

Website: www.FultonFirstCRC.com

Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

First CRC Fulton

December 22, 2024 - 9:00am

Advent: A Look at Luke: A First Greeting

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Messiah - Praise Team

Welcome:

Announcements:

Call To Worship: Pastor Michael

God's Greeting: Pastor Michael

Mutual Greeting

Reading: KC1

Worship Through Song:

King of Kings - KC1

Waymaker - Praise Team and KC1

Congregational Prayer:

Offering: General Fund & Unity Christian School Boosters

Offertory: Away in a Manger - Simon

Piano Solo - Bodey

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle: Tegan

Worship in Song:

Silent Night - Praise Team and Tegan

Hark the Herald Angels Sing - Praise Team and Tegan

O What a Glorious Night

Emmanuel

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,

the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

⁴⁶And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

Sermon: Advent: A Look at Luke: A First Greeting - Pastor Michael

WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING

Parting Song: Angels We Have Heard on High

Blessing: Pastor Michael

Announcements

Christmas Eve Service begins at 6:00pm on December 24th.

The beautiful poinsettias are in memory of:

Merle & Carol Bielema from the family

Brad Lown from the family

Sid & Myrna Dykstra & Arthur & Eileen Thompson from
Paul & Sheila Thompson

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family

Elmer & Alberta Vander Eide from the family

Paul & Wilma Ottens & Janet Mathey from the family

Barb & Gene Kessler from the family

John & Vie Atherton from the family

Jake & Florence Balk & Roger Simon from Bonnie Simon

Angela McGinty & Robert Jackson from the family

Ken Balk & Stephanie Balk from Audrey Balk & family

Ruth Long from the Family

To honor our parents from Mark & Ann Dykstra

Darrell Tiesman & Harlan Tiesman from Gen Tiesman, Darla
Birks & family

Genoveva from Ana

Prayer Chain Update: If you are interested in receiving prayer chain updates, please fill out the sheet at the back of the sanctuary. You have the option to sign up for emails or a phone call. If you are already on the email list, you will continue to receive those emails. We will be updating the phone call list after the sign-ups are complete to ensure that everyone who wants to pray for our members is able to hear the news about any prayer needs.

If anyone would like to send Mary M a card, her address for the next 2-3 weeks is:

Van Matre Encompass Health Rehabilitation Institute
950 South Mulford Rd.
Rockford, IL 61108

The next potluck meal will be January 12, 2025. Begin thinking about your favorite slow cooker foods!

December 19 Council Meeting Notes:

The following Council officers have been elected for 2025:

President - Bruce Bielema

Vice-President - Stacy Stephenson

Clerk - Angie Vander Eide

Treasurer - Jon Breidenbach

The church prayer chain will be updated. A sign up sheet will be placed where members can enter their desire to be included either by phone or by e-mail.

The church insurance premium with Church Mutual will be reduced by about \$1300 by increasing the deductible and decreasing the coverage amount.

The produce stand sustained wind damage but has been repaired and placed in storage for the winter. Community support for the produce stand was expressed in several Facebook posts.

Remember in prayer our members in care facilities or homebound: Carroll E, Albert W, Leanna S

Please send prayer requests to Pastor Michael at **mhooke01@gmail.com**.

Please send *all other bulletin information* to **FirstCRCFulton@live.com** by Thursday at 7:00pm.

December Birthdays

1 Collin Burns

1 Genevieve Tiesman

1 Tucker Smith

5 Kelly Dykstra

6 Rollie Vander Eide

8 Janelle Bradley

9 Brenda Huizenga

12 Don Mathey

14 Alida Hooker

18 Brenda Atherton

21 Sheila Thompson

27 Paige Vander Eide

27 Ana Ton

28 Rachel Elliot

30 Stacy Stephenson

December Anniversaries

6 Mark & Ann Dykstra

28 Albert & Gloria Wiebenga

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 12/15/24:

Memorial Fund: \$50.00

Faith Promise: \$174.00

General Fund

Budget: \$2,051.62

Received: \$797.00

Under: \$1,254.62

Offerings Today: General Fund & UCSB

Offerings 12/29/24: General Fund & Ministry Shares

Please place your offerings in the plates as they are passed.

***As of December 15, our General Fund offerings are
\$5781.00 short of our budget goal for 2024.***

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip: For you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, "It is finished"; for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand. All this he did for you, though you do not know it yet. And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled: "We love because God loved us first." – Adapted from the French Reformed Church liturgy During this week of Christmas, tell the familiar story of the birth of our Savior with the hope of hearing it in new and beautiful ways, remembering Christ's incarnation and birth for YOU. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Community News

Children's Discovery Center's 12th Annual Family New Year's Eve Party is Tuesday, Dec 31st, from 3 - 5:30 pm. 1,000 balloons drop at 5:15 pm!

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (March 28 - April 8, 2025): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey and the Seven Churches of Revelation - (May 27 - June 8, 2025) Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's first, second, and third missionary journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

| Weekly Calendar | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Today | Sunday Worship | 9:00 am |
| Tuesday, Dec 24 th | Christmas Eve Service | 6:00 pm |

| | December 22nd | December 29th |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Recorder & Sound | Joe V | David D |
| Nursery Attendant | Celia B | Sara D |
| Snack Provider | Lynell B | Beth C |
| Server | Lynell B | Stacy S |

Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church Prayer Concerns

Mary Medenblik - Prayers for Mary as she begins rehab in Rockford for the next few weeks.

Gayle Dykstra - Prayers for her recovery from pacemaker surgery.

Steve Huisenga - Prayers for Steve as he recovers from his knee replacement surgery this week.

Dick Huizenga - Ongoing health concerns.

Joe Long - Health Concerns and Mobility Issues.

Leanna Schipper - Prayers for ongoing health concerns.

Marissa - Prayers for health issues with her eye.

Marianne Eenigenburg - Alida's Mom who was diagnosed with cancer. Prayers as she continues in her treatment.

Eric Phillips - Was hit by a car on Nov 10th. He has been moved out of ICU but still has a long recovery. Prayers for him and his family as he hopefully regains short-term memory and learns to do everything, again.

For the Grieving - Prayers for anyone that is grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season.

Justin Birks - Prayers for him as he awaits news from test results and adjusts to the diagnosis of Crohn's disease.

Members of the congregation who are homebound and in care facilities.